

5.—That from time to time a Congress shall be held in London, the first to be summoned during the Summer of the present year. The Council of the Society of Antiquaries shall be Ex-officio Members, and the President (or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents) of the Society of Antiquaries shall be President of the Congress. Six Members of the Council of the Royal Archæological Institute, and six of the Council of the British Archæological Association shall be nominated by these Societies to represent them at the Congress. Each Society in Union may send two Delegates to the Congress.

6.—That the object of the Congress be to promote the better organization of Antiquarian research, and to strengthen the hands of the local Societies in securing the preservation of ancient monuments and records.

7.—That for this purpose it shall promote the foundation of new Societies where such appear necessary, and the improvement and consolidation of existing Societies where advisable, and suggest the limits within which each local Society can most advantageously work, and the direction in which it appears most desirable at the moment that the efforts of the Societies in Union should be exerted.

8.—That the Societies in Union be invited to furnish reports from time to time with reference to their action in these directions. That the Royal Archæological Institute and the British Archæological Association be requested to offer to the Congress any remarks which may be suggested by their Annual Excursions or otherwise.

9.—That the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries be requested to act as Secretary of the Congress, with whom the Secretaries of the Societies in Union can correspond, and that the Council of the Society of Antiquaries be requested to advise on any matters which may arise between one meeting of the Congress and another.

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#### WILLIAM NAPIER REEVE, F.S.A.

For the following Obituary Notice of the late William Napier Reeve, F.S.A., J.P., we are indebted to the *Leicester Journal*, of Friday, April 27th, and May 4th, 1888.

We have to record, with profound regret, the death of Mr. William Napier Reeve, F.S.A., J.P., Clerk of the Peace for the County, which took place at his residence in Prebend Street, Leicester, on Saturday afternoon, (April 21st, 1888,) after a short illness. The deceased gentleman, who was in his seventy-seventh year, had for a long time past been broken in health, and about twelve months since was prostrated by a serious attack of bronchitis. Being possessed, however, of a robust constitution, he recovered after a long prostration, and was enabled to resume the duties of his office with apparently renewed energy and activity until within a few days of his death. He was present at the Easter Quarter Sessions, and attended daily at his office until recently, when a return of bronchitis

prevented him from leaving his home. He had the assistance and advice of Dr. Emmerson, but on Thursday week it was found that the patient was sinking, and the end came as stated shortly after one o'clock on Saturday. The deceased gentleman was probably best known in the county through his long and honourable association with the business of Quarter Sessions. He took up his residence in Leicester about forty-six years ago, having previously been in practice as a solicitor in London, and entered the office of Mr. Wm. Freer, the then Clerk of the Peace, acting as his deputy. He subsequently became a member of the firm, and on the death of Mr. Freer in October, 1873, was appointed to the vacancy thus caused, and held the office up to the time of his death. He was also Clerk to the Lieutenancy, a position which he also retained; and on the election of the late Mr. C. Packe as Chairman of Quarter Sessions and County Treasurer, Mr. Reeve was appointed Under-Treasurer of the county. This post, however, he resigned in consequence of advancing years, at the Epiphany Sessions last year, when Mr. Wm. Jesse Freer was elected as his successor.

The deceased was also for many years Clerk to the Visitors of the Asylum; and acting in that capacity had a great deal to do with the formation and limits of the Leicester Cemetery. A proposal to extend the burial ground to the other side of the Occupation Road, was strongly objected to by Mr. Reeve on behalf of the Asylum authorities, and the views entertained in that quarter ultimately prevailed.

Mr. Reeve was also at one time Clerk to the Visiting Justices of the Gaol, a post which he relinquished a few years since; and also Deputy-Constable of the Castle, another position from which he had lately retired in favour of Mr. Freer. To these duties the deceased added those of election agent to Lord John Manners, in which capacity he was well known to the electors throughout the whole of the old constituency of North Leicestershire. His active work in this connection commenced, we believe, in 1857, when the present Duke of Rutland first contested the division on the elevation of his late brother to the dukedom. In the enforced absence of the late Mr. W. Freer through indisposition, Mr. Reeve undertook much of the work of the contest, and entered into it with all the zeal and vigour which characterized him in his prime. On the death of Mr. Freer he was appointed to the position, and was a prominent figure in connection with all the elections since fought by Lord John Manners, with one or two exceptions, Mr. Geo. Rowlatt having latterly succeeded him in that position. Though much of his time and energy was necessarily engaged in these varied duties, Mr. Reeve was by no means a stranger to the work carried on in the borough. Though he never took an active part in purely municipal affairs, he was closely identified with

many movements of a social character in the town, and rendered admirable service in different directions. He was one of the founders of the Leicester and Leicestershire Conservative Club, and also of the Belgrave Conservative Club. He was appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the borough in 1879, and was at one time a constant attendant at the bench. But of late years his presence there became more rare, and latterly he seldom occupied a seat among his fellow magistrates. He also once contested St. Martin's Ward in the Conservative interest, but being unsuccessful did not again come forward, and was consequently never a member of the Council. Endowed with more than average ability and considerable intellectual gifts, he was for years a valued member of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and was twice elected its President. The first occasion was in 1854, when his presidential address consisted of a review of the history of the town since his residence here, with a brief description of what he believed would be its future condition. Mr. Reeve then showed that he was possessed of large and broad sympathies with the people, and urged the necessity of providing for their mental and social culture as well as for their physical improvement. His views were at the time thought to be too enthusiastic; but he lived to see many of the things which he forecast for the town accomplished, including the acquisition of a people's park, the erection of ornamental fountains, and laying out of public walks. The circumstance was commented upon in 1882, when the deceased gentleman again occupied the presidential chair, and gave an address on "the poetry of Leicester." Mr. Reeve did not confine himself to words in the matter of the progress of the town, but backed up his wishes by energetic action.

In reference to his presidency of the above society, it may be added that he was instrumental in procuring the sculpture gallery at the Museum, of which he was, to a certain extent, the originator. As a member of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, he also made some valuable and interesting contributions to its proceedings.

About 40 years ago the deceased gentleman contributed a series of interesting articles to the *Leicester Journal*, under the assumed name of "Father Austin." His interest in the old Castle amounted almost to reverence. One of the most noteworthy of numerous small publications by him on historical and local subjects was a History of that building, and in the spring of 1882 he gave a memorable lecture and luncheon to the members of the Law Students' Society, within the building. He was an ardent supporter of the movement for the preservation of ancient footways to the public use, and worked cordially with the members of the society having that object in view; and in addition to his other honours was Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Mr.

Reeve also served the office of Under-sheriff during the shrievalty of Sir Henry St. John Halford, Bart., C.B.; and, being a constant attendant at the services in St. Martin's Church, had, on different occasions, acted as a Sidesman there.

In private life he gained the highest esteem of all with whom he came in contact. To the poor he was a generous and willing friend, and those associated with him in his professional duties have lost a considerate and liberal employer. He retired from practice as a solicitor, a few years since, when he left the firm of Freer, Reeve, Blunt and Rowlatt, of which he was for many years a respected and valued member, and devoted the last days of an active life entirely to his duties as Clerk of the Peace. His venerable figure will be greatly missed at the Quarter Sessions, and those closely associated with him in his public and private work have lost an honoured and respected colleague.

Last year Mr. Reeve celebrated his golden wedding. He leaves a widow and one daughter, also a widow, who have the deepest sympathy of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The funeral of the deceased gentleman took place on Thursday, April 26th, at Bocking, a little village about two miles from Braintree, Essex, and was of a strictly private character. The body, which was enclosed in a coffin of polished oak with massive brass fittings, was removed from Leicester on Wednesday in charge of Mr. Jackson, of Gallowtree gate, who had the arrangement of the funeral. It was followed to the grave by two sisters and a cousin of the deceased, Mr. Francis, of Colchester, and other relatives; and Ald. Winterton, J.P., Mr. Wm. Jesse Freer, Mr. Geo. Rowlatt, and Mr. Waugh attended from Leicester to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of an esteemed friend. There were also present at the grave side a number of residents of the town, by whom the family had for many years been held in the greatest respect. The interment took place in the family vault at the Nonconformist burial ground, which already contained the remains of Mr. Reeve's grandfather and grandmother, his father and mother, and other members of the family. An impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Jonas Reeve, of Brighton, a cousin of the deceased. The breastplate on the coffin contained the simple inscription, "To the memory of William Napier Reeve, J.P., F.S.A., Clerk of the Peace for the county of Leicester, aged 77."

On Monday, April 23rd, at the Town Hall, the magistrates having taken their seats, the Mayor referred to the death of Mr. Reeve in the following terms:—The hand of death has again been busy amongst us. Since this court last sat, Mr. W. N. Reeve, whose name appears on the commission of the peace for this borough, has passed away. He had attained a ripe age. He was,

I believe, 77 years of age at the time of his death, and had lived a most active life, throwing himself with the greatest possible energy into every department of labour to which his business or his leisure called him, and he has left a mark on the history of this borough which a very long time will be required to efface, if it is ever effaced.

Mr. Reeve was Clerk of the Peace for the county, and in respect of the discharge of the duties which devolved on him there is no doubt those who for so many years had the advantage of his advice and assistance will take a proper opportunity of expressing their sense of the loss they have sustained. In the town itself Mr. Reeve was always foremost in all matters in which the heart was most affected. In all charitable works, in every way in which a man could show a lively personal kindly interest in those by whom he was surrounded, Mr. Reeve was distinguished. No appeal was ever made to him for any deserving object which did not meet with a response such as the warmest heart could suggest. His literary attainments are well known. His association with the Literary and Philosophical institution conveyed to all those who had the pleasure of hearing him, and meeting him at the meetings of that society, the fact that they had amongst them a highly cultured gentleman, a scholar, one who was gifted with the power of oratory, who was well acquainted with the poetry of the age and of the past age, and rich in historic knowledge, as he was in all the higher graces of literature. The removal of such a figure from amongst us could not be allowed to pass, and the magistrates felt it ought not to pass without my expressing on their behalf their sense of the loss the town and this bench has sustained. It is true that during recent years Mr. Reeve was unable to attend so much as could have been wished to the meetings of this bench; but whenever he did attend he brought to bear upon the duties the trained intellect of a solicitor, the kind heart of an English gentleman, and, above all, the strong desire to do even-handed justice between all parties who came here with their business. The Bench desire me to say how much they regret the serious loss the town has sustained, and how strongly they sympathize with the widow of Mr. Reeve and his daughter in their sad and irreparable bereavement.

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The REV. T. W. OWEN, Vicar of S. Nicholas', Leicester, has communicated the following further extracts from the earliest Register of his Church, in continuation of the portion already printed in the *Transactions*, Vol. vi., 344-352.